

Pickering claims PLO approach

UNITED NATIONS (R) — American U.N. Representative Thomas Pickering has said he had fobbed off an approach by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) United Nations observer, since that would have been against United States policy. Pickering had been, seen speaking informally with Nasser Al Kidwa shortly before a meeting of the Security Council that postponed until Monday a vote on a resolution dealing with the Israeli-occupied territories. Asked about this, Pickering said: "Dr. Al Kidwa apparently wanted to develop some cooperation. I told him that was not possible. It wasn't possible for us to develop that kind of cooperation." Pickering said he presumed Kidwa wished to discuss the subject being debated by the council, but added: "We don't carry on the dialogue with him." The United States opened talks with the PLO in Tunisia in December 1988 after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism and recognised Israel. But Washington broke off the dialogue after the PLO refused to condemn a raid on a Tel Aviv beach last May by one of its constituent guerrilla groups.

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King: Best opportunity for Mideast peace

U.S.-Iraq contacts should be serious dialogue • No stability or elimination of arsenals without peace • Arabs should make way for a mediator • International conference a must

AMMAN (J.T.) — The opportunity for comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East through resolving the Gulf crisis and Palestinian problem on the basis of international legitimacy has never been better. His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday.

The King welcomed the American move to open direct contacts with Iraq as a positive development and "a correction of the course that had been pursued hitherto." He expressed hope that the initiative "can be the starting point in a serious move to solve the Gulf crisis according to a comprehensive outlook that seeks to solve all the problems of the region, especially the Palestinian problem."

The King, in an address to a new group of graduates from the Staff College, said security and stability of the region and the elimination of mass destructive weapons from the arsenals of the region's countries cannot be realised in the absence of lasting peace.

The King also issued an impassioned appeal to the Arab leaders to bury their differences over the Gulf crisis and launch an inter-Arab dialogue to come up with a collective stand parallel to the forthcoming U.S.-Iraq talks.

The King said Arabs could still launch a "rescue operation," adding that compromise was one of the principles in the search for any settlement of the Kuwait-Iraq conflict.

"We call for an Arab-Arab dialogue that is parallel to the American-Iraqi dialogue on the Gulf crisis because the issue is one of prime concern to the Arabs," he said.

King Hussein said that disagreement among the Arabs hastened the direct interference of

foreign powers in Arab affairs. Stressing that his efforts to resolve the crisis could continue, he said that an Arab mediator should be given the "opportunity to act by engaging both parties to the conflict in a dialogue."

"This principle leads ultimately to a balanced and final resolution since it allows for a process of give and take which results in an outcome acceptable to both parties," the King said.

The King said it was hard to understand why Arabs maintained an embargo on a dialogue while the United States and the European Community were ready to talk to Baghdad.

The King also urged an international Middle East peace conference as soon as United Nations Security Council resolutions on Kuwait began to be implemented.

"It is high time for all to defend international legitimacy by upholding it, and for the Security Council to show that it applies one and not two yardsticks," the King said.

"The convening of this conference would put an end to conflicts in our region, pave the way for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in it and strengthen peace and security."

The King said the chances of solving the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem were better now than ever. "Let us seize this opportunity or we will be cursed by God and by history."

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech: "Our historic duty towards ourselves and our future generations compels us to wake up and to deflect the dangers awaiting us. I believe a rescue operation is still possible and that the respon-

sibility for it falls upon us, the Arabs, without any exceptions. If we are resolute in correcting our course and are ready for a peaceful settlement, then there are some principles which we must recall and abide by."

"Foremost amongst these principles that must be activated is the one that gives the Arab mediator the opportunity to act by engaging both parties to the conflict in a dialogue which will prepare the road for them to sit down together to negotiate a resolution to the problems which gave rise to this conflict."

"The second principle which needs to be adopted in the Iraqi-Kuwait conflict is the principle of compromise. This principle leads ultimately to a balanced and final resolution since it allows for a process of give and take which results in an outcome acceptable to both parties."

"The third important principle is the need to discuss the Gulf crisis within a comprehensive outlook which takes into account other problems of the region, which equally threaten world peace and the world's economy. Besides the Gulf crisis, our region, which contains the largest oil reserves alongside a burgeoning arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, still suffers from the serious repercussions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the failure to resolve the Palestinian problem. It is clear that peace and security will not prevail in the Middle East if only the Gulf crisis is resolved. Weapons of mass destruction cannot be eliminated from the region if the Arab-Israeli conflict is not settled."

"The forthcoming Iraqi-Arabian dialogue does not mean that the Arab states should satisfy themselves with the role of

spectators awaiting results. We in Jordan call for the start of an Arab-Arab dialogue parallel to the Iraqi-Arabian dialogue to deal with the Gulf crisis, because it is an Arab issue which concerns the Arabs primarily, as applies to the Palestinian problem. This dialogue must spring from our concern for our nation's future, independence, fortitude cohesiveness, the good of its future generations, and the rights and interests of the antagonists. We should be guided in this by the fear of God, our faithfulness to the struggle of our forefathers and the sacrifice of the Arab martyrs, and our compliance with the tenets of our faith and the teachings of our Arab prophet."

See page 5 for full text of the King's speech

King meets U.S., Soviet officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Henry Rowens and an accompanying delegation and reviewed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis and voiced Jordan's keen desire for a peaceful settlement of the problem.

The King stressed the need for serious work to address all Middle East issues, in accordance with principles of international

legitimacy. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the U.S. ambassador to Jordan.

The King also received U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens (Democrat, Utah), who is currently on a visit to Jordan, and exchanged with him views on the Gulf crisis. Owens is a member of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

The King stressed the need to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis as well as other Middle East conflicts, in accordance with principles of international legitimacy. The King welcomed the U.S. move to open direct contacts with Iraq and voiced hopes that a serious and in-depth dialogue would be developed between Baghdad and Washington.

The audience was attended by Sharif Zeid and a delegation accompanying Owens.

The King also received Poris Padiashev, a member of a Consultative Committee at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The King and Padiashev reviewed the Gulf crisis and stressed the need to find a peaceful settlement to it as well as other crises in the region.

The meeting was attended by Sharif Zeid, King Hussein's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and the Soviet ambassador.

Baker sticks to hardline, but offers Gulf scenario

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States offered Iraq Sunday a peaceful scenario for the Gulf crisis, saying Baghdad could negotiate its differences with Kuwait once it withdrew its troops.

Secretary of State James Baker stuck to the U.S. hardline position, insisting Iraq leave Kuwait or face the threat of war, but he toned down the war rhetoric and emphasised his vision of a post-crisis Gulf without combat.

Baker, interviewed on ABC Television's "This Week," said the United States would not object to Iraq holding talks with Kuwait once Baghdad complies with U.N. resolutions.

"That's something between Kuwait and Iraq," he said. Baker said the United States would take part in a multinational security force "that would guard against a repeat of what has just happened, and that would permit Kuwait to negotiate on a much more balanced basis."

U.N. resolutions demand Iraq quit Kuwait, restore its toppled emir government and commit to stability in the Gulf. If Iraq is not out of Kuwait by Jan. 15, a

resolution authorises the U.S.-dominated force to restore the emir regime. Speculation has been that if Iraq could not keep Kuwait, it would seek control over two islands giving it an outlet to the Gulf and an oilfield that is on both sides of the border.

Asked if the result would be Iraq "gaining" from its Aug. 2 invasion, Baker said: "I don't think that you should assume that the negotiations will result in that, because we don't know that."

"But the fact is that what we want to do is make sure that we see full compliance with the Security Council Resolutions, and that we see a security arrangement in place..."

He said such a security arrangement would address the issue of Iraq's one-million-strong army, its chemical weapons stocks and its reported nuclear weapons programme. Iraq denies building an atomic bomb.

"The disproportionate military power of Iraq and the weapons of mass destruction that Iraq possesses must be dealt with in some way," he said.

Iraq said to have redrawn border; Saudis deny shift

DHAHRAN (Agencies) — British and Arab newspapers reported Sunday that Iraq has drawn its border with Kuwait in possible preparation for a partial pullout from the emirate.

The reports, in the Observer of London and the Al Khaleej daily in Abu Dhabi, said Iraq's aim was to keep the whole of the Rumailah oilfield and two islands in the Gulf, Warba and Bubiyan.

A well-placed Saudi diplomat Sunday denied a report in London's Independent on Sunday that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were holding secret talks with Iraq.

The country's official news agency also denied any change in Saudi policy over Kuwait.

The weekly Observer, citing unidentified Arab sources in Washington, said "Most Arab governments expect Iraq to withdraw from the rest of Kuwait in late January... but completion of the new border fence may imply an even earlier withdrawal."

The report said Iraq has constructed a new international line

by building a barbed-wire fence around the southern tip of the oilfield, which extends into northern Kuwait.

Refugees fleeing Kuwait have reported existence of the fence. The newspaper said some information for the report came from an unidentified source who attended the recent Baghdad talks between Saddam, His Majesty King Hussein, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh.

In the United Arab Emirates, the government-guided Al Khaleej newspaper said the expected pullout would be to the new border line.

"According to information circulated at the highest official level in a number of Arab capitals directly concerned with the crisis, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may partially withdraw his troops from Kuwait," Al Khaleej said.

Meanwhile a Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press

that a report in the weekly Independent on Sunday that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were holding secret talks with Iraq was "nonsense."

The Independent on Sunday said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were secretly sounding out Iraq to try to reach a settlement of the border dispute between them once Iraq withdrew from Kuwait.

Quoting unidentified Arab exiles in Europe and the United States, the newspaper said the contacts were intended to show Iraq that if it pulls out its troops "the way is still open for an agreement which would satisfy some of (its) long-standing claims against Kuwait."

The report said Kuwait has repeated its willingness to allow Iraq 99-year leases on Warba and Bubiyan, which control access to the one Iraqi port on the Gulf, Umm Qasr. It also said Kuwait would allow Iraq full control of the Rumailah oilfield which has

Western airlift begins from Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An Italian-chartered Jumbo jet left Baghdad airport Sunday, with 225 passengers, mostly Italian, the first flight of an airlift to freedom for Westerners freed by Iraq's recent order.

The Boeing 747 left at 1930 local time (1630 GMT) scheduled to fly to Rome.

Airport sources said the Rome flight carried 176 Italians and 19 others including 17 Britons.

A second Jumbo, chartered by the United States was loading an estimated 321 Westerners for a flight to Frankfurt. Those boarding included 175 Americans, 93 Britons, 31 Canadians, 12 Irish, five Greeks, three Austrians and one each from Argentina, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland, the airport sources said.

But it was not clear whether all those scheduled to board would be able to do so because of bureaucratic delays.

The flight was delayed while passengers checked through immigration and diplomats tried to sort out last-minute problems.

These included three Kuwaiti wives of Americans whom Iraqi authorities refused to allow out because they had not changed their Kuwaiti passports to Iraqi documents.

A handful of Americans also had problems getting exit visas because they needed letters from employers saying they had cleared all obligations.

But the vast majority of them filed through the controls without problems, and diplomats said earlier Iraqi authorities appeared to be trying hard to facilitate departures.

Iraq insisted on using Iraqi Airways planes for the airlift to break an embargo on economic links with Baghdad imposed by the U.N. soon after the invasion of Kuwait.

The British embassy in Baghdad planned to send in chartered Iraqi plane to Kuwait Tuesday to bring out most of the more than 300 Britons believed still in the emirate.

The airlift started when an Iraqi Boeing 707 chartered by the U.S. government flew to Kuwait and returned to Baghdad with about 140 people, mostly Americans.

with Sroor's suggestions. "The government has been trying to strengthen the democratic experiment since the last parliamentary elections," he commented.

Sroor, who said he was speaking on behalf of the "National Bloc," the second largest bloc in Lower House of Parliament after the Muslim Brotherhood, suggested that political parties should stop public activities until new laws were issued.

"We think that the government should conserve democratic and political consumption," the deputy said. "And we demand that political parties should submit requests for licensing to allow those who abide by the rules for the establishment of parties if there is a law that provides for it. If not, the government must stop such activities completely until the issuance of new laws covering this subject," Sroor

Death, siege and threats mark intifada anniversary

Strip village of Bani Subeila while resisting police who were dragging him from his home. An army spokesman said the father of four died after being shot while struggling with a policeman. His brother was shot dead by soldiers last February. Elsewhere, Israeli forces fired tear gas to disperse protests.

According to a count by Reuters, Madani was the 743rd Palestinian known killed by Israelis in the revolt — and the first of the fourth year.

Soldiers clashed with masked youths in the West Bank village of Bani Naim, shooting one in the leg, the army said.

Curfews confined more than a million Arabs to their homes in the occupied territories, some for the third straight day, in an army effort to quell violence on the anniversary of the intifada.

"At the moment, we have beefed up forces, and increased patrols, lookouts and roadblocks," said a lieutenant enforcing the curfew on the Dheishah refugee camp in the occupied West Bank.

"The camp is quiet mainly due to our presence and in any case we are ready to enter the camp at the smallest incident," he told army radio.

Slogans on walls near Manger (Continued on page 5)

Security Council deadlocked over Mideast peace conference

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations Security Council, threatened by a U.S. veto, held off voting until Monday on a resolution critical of Israel's treatment of Palestinians in hopes of reaching a last-minute compromise.

The main point in the deadlocked negotiations is a paragraph that would endorse an eventual peace conference on the Middle East, which Israel strongly opposes and the United States says it fears would be linked to the Gulf crisis.

The conference is favoured by Arab states and most other nations on the 15-member council but rejected by Israel, which demands direct negotiations with the Arabs.

Although the wording matches

official American positions, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said an endorsement at this time would "reward" Iraq which has made such talks a condition in resolving the Gulf crisis.

"Linkage has been a longstanding and continuing concern on the part of the United States," he told reporters. "The U.S. has been opposed to linkage throughout this process."

The council voted 9-4 to adopt a Soviet motion to postpone consideration of the resolution until Monday. The United States voted in favour of postponement, while France and China abstained.

When asked if an eventual U.S. veto was likely, the chief spokesman for the U.S. mission, Phil Arnold, said, "That is my

impression." A U.S. veto would anger America's Arab allies in the anti-Iraq coalition assembled in the Gulf.

A veto by the United States or any of the other four permanent Security Council members would kill the U.N. resolution, but most other council members appear to support the measure.

The resolution, sponsored by Yemen, Cuba, Malaysia and Colombia, endorses the idea of a Middle East peace conference "at an appropriate time" that would help achieve "a comprehensive settlement and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The United States has not (Continued on page 2)

Government rejects 'National Bloc' call for political curbs

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Salem Masa'adeh Sunday rejected calls by some deputies to place restrictions on political pluralism and said that the government was working seriously towards the continuation and protection of democracy in the Kingdom.

Masa'adeh was responding to a call by Deputy Saad Hayel Sroor to curb political activities in Jordan until the National Charter was finalised.

"After the results of the parliamentary elections which brought you deputies here, the government was either to implement its current laws on political parties (marital law) or to find another approach to allow political activities without threatening our national security," the minister said, adding that he did not think many deputies would agree

added, as other deputies started to interrupt him, rejecting the demands.

Masa'adeh said that those who wanted to register political parties were told to wait until the finalisation of the national charter, which is being drawn up by a 60-member commission. He added that allowing political activities to take place did not mean the government had officially recognised them as political parties.

Last February the government of Mudar Badran froze martial law, imposed since 1967, and promised to abolish it completely in six months and after alternative legislation was issued.

Some observers attending the parliament session described the affair as ironic because a minister of interior was

(Continued on page 5)

Islamic leaders assail foreign presence

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Assistant Secretary General of the World Islamic League (WIL) Ahmad Al-Bashir Sunday said that Muslims felt "bitterness and indignation" because of the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula where the most sacred Islamic shrine is situated.

At a press conference held in Amman, Al-Bashir said that the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula is a "violation of the Islamic sanctities" and that it is a "challenge to the Islamic world". He said that the Islamic world is "determined to liberate the holy Islamic places" and that it is "determined to achieve freedom and independence".

Al-Bashir said that the Islamic world is "determined to achieve freedom and independence" and that it is "determined to achieve freedom and independence". He said that the Islamic world is "determined to achieve freedom and independence" and that it is "determined to achieve freedom and independence".

takeover of Kuwait, and would not end with the end of that occupation. "The problem has its roots in the Islamic world," the statement said.

It added that the absence of an Islamic approach, the creation of the Zionist entity in Palestine, foreign control of much of the Arab wealth and the imbalances caused by these situations, including the poor and unfair distribution of Arab resources, were the real causes of the crisis.

Bashir recalled the U.S. air raids on Libya and the Israeli attack on Iraq saying that such raids took place under the false pretext that these countries were developing nuclear and chemical weapons at a time when the Israeli arsenal was full of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The statement called for lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and for drawing up a pan-Arab oil policy which should be binding on all Arab countries producing oil.

It called for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait simultaneously with the entry of Arab and Muslim forces alongside the United Nations. It also supported the argument linking the Gulf crisis with the other Middle East questions, including the Palestine problem.

The statement called for mobilising all Arab and Muslim forces to liberate Palestine.



Jordan, Germany sign technical assistance memorandum providing for German technical assistance to the Kingdom to help it carry out development schemes. Under the first memorandum, Germany will offer consultancy services to the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) which will provide the authority with equipment and will train its personnel in the use of the equipment. Under the second memorandum, Germany will offer technical assistance to support a project undertaken by WAJ and the Royal Scientific

Society (RSS) for the utilisation of renewable energy resources. The project is being implemented in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation. The third memorandum provides for German expertise and studies of a number of Jordanian development projects which will be financed by German government funds. It entails providing experts to work for government departments. The three memoranda were signed by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah and the German charge d'affaires in Amman.

U.N. agency assesses Jordan's aid to evacuees for compensation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) held a meeting here Sunday to discuss the prospect of compensating Jordan for the cost of caring for evacuees who have fled Iraq and Kuwait over the past three months.

The delegation, led by UNHCR representative in Amman, Mr. Hans-Joachim Lauth, met with the Jordanian government to discuss the prospect of compensating Jordan for the cost of caring for evacuees who have fled Iraq and Kuwait over the past three months.

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800,000 evacuees in Jordan after fleeing Kuwait and Iraq," Hamad told the delegation.

The three-member delegation, led by Carol Faubert, arrived in Amman Saturday evening and is due to leave for home Wednesday to submit a report on the Jordanian committee's activities prior to any decision for assistance to Jordan.

The UNHCR was established in 1951 to provide international protection for the refugees and to seek permanent solutions to their problems.

According to U.N. officials here, the office provides services to any person who, because of well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality or political opinion is outside the country of his nationality and is unable to avail himself of the protection of that country.

Enthusiasts crowd Ministry of Agriculture's offices to lease land

By Saeda Kilahi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Agriculture's decision to lease state-owned land for a fee of 100 fils per dunum has created a sort of misunderstanding among enthusiastic Jordanians who rushed to the concerned authorities to be the first to "win" the land. While some of them thought they would obtain the land, others fought over it on a "tribal" background, and others trespassed on pasture lands.

"We were really amazed by the high response from the public following the announcement," said Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat. "The number of applications at present amounts to 2600 in the Jordan Valley and a couple of hundred in the high lands," he added.

"There was misunderstanding: these lands are only leased for one year to achieve self-sufficiency of the country's needs for cereals," the minister continued. "This was also part of a strategy to redirect the farmer into planting cereals instead of other usual crops, such as tomatoes, which creates a surplus of products in the market."

The ministry has made it clear that priorities of leasing land are as stipulated by the law of the administration of state property. Therefore, the first priority would go to the region's inhabitants—farmers who don't own land. Then come the region's farmers who own but a fragment of land which does not provide them with adequate resources. At a later stage come graduates of farming schools who are unemployed. Cooperative and agricultural companies also have their share.

Though most of the investors preferred the Jordan Valley as their project land, it is in fact, according to some farmers and

residents there, a source of suffering for the landowners there. "Salinity and insects on the one hand, competition and mismanagement on the other, are continually threatening the future of agriculture in that area," they say.

"The main problem we are suffering from now is that of salinity," explains Adawiyyah Saleh Odwan, a third year student at the Agriculture Department at the University of Jordan and whose family possesses a plot of land in the Jordan Valley. "Most of the farmers began to suffer the consequences of salinity which in turn influences the plants and may lead to the deterioration of the whole crop output in the long run," he added.

In the Jordan Valley, due to the closeness of agricultural lands, many farmers usually get to plant the same crop in the same year. The surplus it creates in the market seems to leave the farmer with no revenue or, as it happens many times, no income to rely on for the coming year. "At the time we plant tomatoes, we find out that most of the farmers have planted tomatoes too, which results in the decrease of the product's price and consequently in our loss," confirmed Odwan.

It so happens, according to some observers at the central market, that farmers are left with hardly anything at the end of the selling and distribution operation, where most of the money resulting from selling the products goes to transportation expenses, along with those of the workers and agents. "There happens many times that farmers receive 'may God reward you' on their cheques instead of their money," explains Hassan Hamad, who holds a doctorate in agriculture.

UNICEF sends aid to Iraqi children

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Sunday announced the dispatch of child care requirements worth \$400,000 to Iraq as part of its regular programme of assistance to Iraqi children.

"The 30-tonne shipment, which arrives in Baghdad Monday from Copenhagen, is in response to a request by the Iraqi

government and is part of UNICEF's 1990 assistance programme," UNICEF said in a statement here Sunday.

It said that the shipment included thousands of doses of vaccines to combat measles and other common child diseases as well as training materials and various equipment including infant weighing scales. The shipment, it said, will be

Palestinian struggle hailed as landmark in Arab history

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Sunday issued a statement to mark the start of the fourth year of Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, paying tribute to the sacrifices of the Palestinians in the course of their ongoing struggle to achieve freedom and independence.

"The sacrifices offered over the past three years of uprising helped to enlighten the world public opinion about the Palestine issue and the just struggle of the Palestinians to attain their legitimate rights," the statement said. It said that the Palestinians had been suffering under Israeli occupation and repression, which was intensified over the past three years, but the Palestinians, through their intifada and through their sacrifices, have called the world community's attention to the need for the implementation of justice.

"The coming phase of the intifada, which now enters its fourth year, requires a pan-Arab strategy which should involve the backing of the Arab countries and the world community," the statement said.

It called on world organisations to provide protection for the Palestinians and help them attain freedom.

The Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) Sunday issued a similar statement on the same occasion, stressing that the Palestinian uprising is a national movement growing in intensity and dimension every day. JANDA's statement said that the intifada, with youths throwing stones at Israeli troops, is being developed slowly but surely as other means of resisting occupation are being introduced.

The statement paid tribute to the Palestinian people who, it said, "offered thousands of martyrs and are facing detention and

Scientist describes the catastrophic results of a war in the region

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The one dimension that every involved party in the Gulf crisis seems to either look past or just outright ignore is the catastrophic long-term consequences a war in the region would leave. These consequences have been outlined by His Majesty King Hussein in his speech at a world summit on ecology, in Geneva, Nov. 6. And they have been reiterated again and again by Jordanian scientists who have directed their appeals to world scientists and called upon their cooperation in trying to divert an environmental disaster.

Dr. Abdullah Toukan, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), prepared a study describing the worst case scenario of a war breaking out in the Gulf and its after effects on the region and the whole world. To describe the catastrophic results, Toukan said, "the scenario is unbelievable, it's like watching a science-fiction movie."

During the press conference held at the RSS, Toukan explained the mechanics of an actual war. "The actual fighting will take place in the oil fields, south of Kuwait, on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border," he said. "That area has about 700 to 1,000 operating wells, a storage capability of 13 million barrels and around 90,000 refineries."

"Let's suppose that 100 wells, each with the capacity of producing 10,000 barrels daily, is attacked and starts burning. Every barrel, weighing 136 kilograms, will release into the atmosphere 333 kilograms of carbon dioxide, 2.45 kilograms of carbon monoxide, and 4.9 kilograms of sulphur dioxide. These harmful gases will have a direct impact on the ozone layer and will heighten the green house effect," Toukan said.

"Five and a half billion tonnes of carbon dioxide are annually discharged to the environment

from daily activities: this will increase by 36 per cent if oil barrels are hit," Toukan said, adding that the wind factor will contribute in carrying these gases, especially sulphur dioxide, to the rest of the world. "According to international standards, these gases will also have a harmful effect on the human body," Toukan said.

Not only will the burning barrels emit harmful gases into the environment, the temperature around that area will increase by 25 degrees centigrade. "The temperature there is around 35 degrees; if there is a 25 degree increase, the temperature will rise to 60 degrees centigrade and this high temperature is intolerable for human beings," Toukan said.

As for the casualty rates on both sides if war breaks out, Toukan said that it was estimated to be around five to six per cent of the troops actually involved in the combat operations. He based his figures on studies involving the estimated casualties in previous wars. For example the estimated number of casualties in the Vietnam war was 363,601 wounded, and 56,226 killed. That makes it around 100 men a day. "Let's suppose the actual fighting forces in the Gulf are 60,000 troops; a five per cent casualty rate will leave 3,000 dead or wounded a day and that is a big number," Toukan said.

At the press conference Toukan stressed the need to control armament in the Middle East region. He presented charts that showed the cumulative number of arms received between 1982 and 1986. The Middle East, according to him, had received 40 per cent of these arms. As for the OPEC countries, they received 34.6 per cent of the total arms sales. "This is a very high percentage if you really think about it," Toukan said.

In another chart he showed, Toukan talked about the various weapons used, owned and developed in countries of this region. For example, he said, it was proven that Iraq, Iran, Egypt and

Nurse instructors graduate

AMMAN (J.T.) — A batch of 16 nurse instructors graduated Sunday, after completing a year-long training course in instructing nurses and midwives, and received their diplomas from Health Minister Mohammad Adhoub Al-Zaben.

"The Health Ministry is aiming at providing health services to all citizens by the year 2000 through a primary health care programme it adopted and through the various health centres in the Kingdom," the minister said in an address at the graduation ceremony.

"The Health Ministry in Jordan is maintaining close cooperation with other health organisations, regionally and internationally, for the sake of upgrading its services, reducing infant mortality rates and stemming the spread of diseases," the minister said.

"The ministry is currently offering a large number of training courses to nurses and health care workers and in 1988 it opened training institute to turn out health care workers to be put in the service of the public through the health centres," Zaben said.

At the ceremony the minister has accepted a plan to develop the institute and enhance its role by producing different specialisations in nursing and primary health care services, according to Zaben.

The institute's Director Huda Hamzeh said an address at the ceremony that programmes were being worked out to transform the institute into a regional



Mohammad Al-Zaben

training centre, providing training to instructors from various Arab countries in cooperation with the World Health Organisation.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed to the establishment of the institute which was inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor in November 1988.

USAID representative Tom Oliver addressed the ceremony underlining the importance of the institute's training courses in boosting primary health care. The Ministry of Health last year announced that Jordan had a total of 2,210 female nurses, of whom 574 were non-Jordanians, and that the Kingdom was in need of at least 4,000 nurses by the end of the century.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed dates, time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "L'orient des cafes" at the French Cultural Centre.

AQABA CULTURAL WEEK

- Exhibition entitled "Goethe-Forest" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre.
- Exhibition entitled "Alfa — an Islamic City on the China Sea" at Aqaba Visitors' Centre.

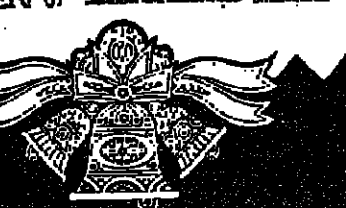
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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet team visits JUST

RAMTHA (Petra) — Jordan University of Science (JUST) President Kamel Al-Ajlouni received Sunday at the university a delegation representing the Soviet Tashkent Institute of Engineering, Ajlouni discussed with the delegation the prospect of cooperation between JUST and the institute in scientific and academic fields. The Jordanian people's backing for the Palestinian two-member delegation was also received by JUST people in the occupied territories and support for Vice-President Fayez Khasawneh who briefed the Iraqi people in counterterrorism cooperation in them on the establishment and the development of the Arab region.

Irbid rally marks intifada

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Governorate's Popular and Technology (JUST) President Kamel Al-Ajlouni received Sunday at the university a delegation representing the Soviet Tashkent Institute of Engineering, Ajlouni discussed with the delegation the prospect of cooperation between JUST and the institute in scientific and academic fields. The Jordanian people's backing for the Palestinian two-member delegation was also received by JUST people in the occupied territories and support for Vice-President Fayez Khasawneh who briefed the Iraqi people in counterterrorism cooperation in them on the establishment and the development of the Arab region.

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Hallucination and War Fever

THE U.N. SECURITY Council failed again on Saturday and Sunday to adopt the much-awaited resolution on the Palestinian problem. Once again it was the U.S. which stopped the council from going ahead with the vote on the proposed resolution by threatening to use its veto power against it. At issue in Washington's point of view is the mere mention of the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East. The mere whisper about the need to convene such a conference has already held up adopting a resolution on protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories for over two months now. If just hinting that such a forum is so much of an anathema to the U.S. what good will it do to pursue the point anyway? The idea of an international parley on the Palestinian situation and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict is already beset by a multitude of contentious issues between the Arab and Israeli sides. If on the top of all that getting to the conference has become a mission impossible, what can the parties expect from it once it really gets going? There is no way that the conference idea would ever materialise without a deep commitment from the parties concerned to it as a forum to negotiate peace terms between the two sides.

Washington has offered the strangest of excuses for aborting the idea of convening such a conference. The U.S. representative to the U.N., Thomas Pickering, has advanced the bizarre notion that incorporating language on the international conference idea in the proposed resolution would be tantamount to presenting Iraq with linkage that it demands between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In other words, Pickering has concluded, the acceptance of the reference to an international peace conference would be like rewarding Baghdad. If there is any party which is now establishing such a linkage between the two situations it is Washington. By insisting that reference to the conference would offer an organic link between the Kuwaiti and Palestinian situations it is the U.S. and the U.S. alone which is unwittingly making this linkage stand. There is not a single word in the draft resolution on the Palestinian problem that mentions or touches on the Gulf crisis. Why then does Washington see linkage when there is none? Some people must be hallucinating back there in Washington. We both hope and pray that it is not The War Fever which is causing it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday commented on reports that the United States will purchase Israeli-made drones to be deployed in Saudi Arabia at the estimated cost of \$500 million. This is a clear indication that the presence of American forces in the Gulf has thus opened the door for Israeli military industries to enter the Arab countries of the Gulf, the paper noted. This also means that the United States wants to open the door for Israel's presence in the Gulf states, so that it will be party to any conflict, backing the American led forces arrayed against Iraq, the paper added. Needless to say that such development has far-reaching serious consequences and underlines the fact that the United States is determined to impose its hegemony on the Arabs at any cost and with the help of its strategic ally, the paper continued. There is urgent need now for the Arab countries to wake up and realise the danger and take the initiative to contain the Gulf crisis to prevent Washington from initiating Israel in a conflict against the Arabs on the one hand, and to abort America's plots against the Arab nation on the other, the paper said. The paper said that the upcoming American-Israeli dialogue can by no means serve as an alternative to a pan-Arab initiative to solve the crisis, and it is incumbent on the Arab leaders to see to it that Israel is denied the chance of launching aggression on an Arab country.

For the past five weeks, the United Nations has failed to take a proper resolution concerning the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories to provide protection to the Arab people or to call for an international conference to help implement Security Council resolutions on the Palestine problem, says a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that the United States had been playing a key role over the past weeks to delay any United Nations action as it did over the past two decades to freeze the implementation of Security Council resolutions which call for Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian land. Encouraged by the American attitude, the Israeli government has been escalating its atrocities against the Palestinians and stepping up campaigns for absorbing more Jewish settlers and building settlements on Arab lands, says the writer. It is clear that the present U.S. administration is following in the footsteps of the earlier administrations in rendering the world community's will ineffective and its resolutions aborted, Rimawi adds. Indeed, the U.S. administration is trying to exploit the Gulf crisis in a manner to let the world community forget about the Arab-Israeli conflict, and to direct its attention towards Iraq; and it is trying to ignore the fact that all tensions in the region emanate from the Arab-Israeli conflict which has been on the agenda of the United Nations for more than four decades, the writer says. He notes, however, that the United States believes it has succeeded in its conspiracy, but the other permanent members at the U.N. Security Council will sooner or later interfere and put an end to such underhand dealings.

Weekly Political Pulse

Politics that favour the strong over the weak

The Arab side still calls for convening an international conference on the Middle East with vigour and faith. This Arab decision is based on the proposition that dealing on their own with Israel, they would not have a good chance of ever retrieving their lost territories or their sense of honour. The Arab submission is based on raw power politics analysis which militarily favours the strong over the weak. Being the weak side of the equation, the Arabs have long concluded that their best bet is to hold an international peace conference on the Palestinian question and the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts under the umbrella of the U.N. Security Council. It was thought that the presence of the permanent members of the Security Council, especially the Soviet Union, in any such conference would guarantee them at least some semblance of support, understanding and even some sympathy.

If such Arab rationale held any water in the pre East-West thaw, it surely does not hold it anymore. With Moscow losing grip on all manifestations of a super power and retreating to being a country afflicted with hunger and deprivation it can no longer afford to side with the Arabs for dubious long term returns. This is not to mention the profound ideological metamorphosis that has occurred recently in the country rendering it indistinguishable from any other "Western nation." The enslavement of the Soviet Union by the overpowering economic and political factors that have hit it recently have effectively transformed it into a good

abiding ally of the U.S. on matters that really count in world affairs. If there is any doubt about how much the Soviet Union has gone under, the recent string of U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq tells a horrific story about the extent that Moscow will go to tow Washington's line on major international issues and conflicts. If the record of Moscow in the recent Security Council debates on Iraq is a sample of what can be expected from it in any given international forum, then the Arab side would be better advised to shun the international conference idea whether held at the cherished linkage point between the Gulf crisis and the other Middle East conflicts or not. If the Security Council debates on the Gulf crisis are not enough to demonstrate the extent to which the permanent members would go to appease Washington on critical disputes, the following debates on the Palestinian issue would erase all lingering doubts on the point. For weeks on end, the Council members kept debating the Palestinian situation but were prevented from taking any serious decision due to filibustering by Washington and other permanent members not excluding Moscow. With such a record, one wonders if conducting negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict under the auspices of that "august" international body would reap for the Arab side any meaningful aid and comfort.

This would lead one to conclude that the international conference idea has lost its operational utility not to mention its glamour and charm. The Arab side may fare better on its own

provided it engages Israel in direct talks as one team. The biggest danger in any proposed Arab-Israeli talks is conducting them with each Arab party separately. If Israel can manage to negotiate with each Arab party sequentially, then they become much easier to devour. That was essentially the major pitfall in the Camp David negotiations between Egypt and Israel. Had all the Arab parties engaged Israel in negotiations as one body they would have been able to arrive at a much more honourable accord that could have addressed all the dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

So instead of singing the old song about the international conference on the Middle East, the Arab side should be searching for other mechanisms and forum to resolve their conflicts with Israel. The principle point is to decide whether the Arab World wants to fight or talk. If talking is their final choice, it makes little difference where and how such talks are held. If the Arab nation is waiting for a marked improvement in the international political climate in its favour, then I am afraid it has a long wait. The way the Arab countries behaved against Iraq and the extent to which they were to conspire even against its very being, demonstrates that neither the Arab environment nor the international climate are anything but comforting to their cause. The Palestinian people and their leaders may or may not have drawn many painful conclusions from the events surrounding the Gulf crisis. Yet in the final analysis, the Palestinian people would remain effectively on their own depending on their own struggles to arrive at an honourable solution to their cry for recognition and statehood.

The rich get richer while the poor ...

By Richard Walker
Reuters

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia. — Eastern Saudi Arabia is humming with men and expanded business as companies and merchants benefit from a stronger basic economy sweetened by new demand from the military machine in the Gulf.

This rugged oil-rich region that is hosting the bulk of the U.S.-led multinational force arrayed against Iraq, was enjoying an improved business confidence even before Iraq's occupation of Kuwait four months ago, corporate executives and diplomats said.

Those who track the Saudi economy say the presence of more than 200,000 foreign troops in the kingdom has sparked a "mini-boom."

The influx of thousands of Kuwaiti exiles was another factor, they added.

"The eastern province is normally reckoned about 1.5 million people so we figure with troops and refugees it's adding another half million, boosting the population by a third in a matter of months," said a European businessman who requested anonymity.

A Western banker said it is estimated in Saudi financial circles that the presence of U.S.-dominated multinational forces in the Gulf region has generated new business worth one billion Saudi Riyals (about \$267 million) per day.

"But it could be much, much more. Over a six-month period, that's a hell of a bundle of cash," he added.

A senior executive of a long-established Saudi trading family stressed that he regards "the very healthy volume of business from the military (as) a very temporary phenomenon."

"We were already well on the road to recovery from the low point of two years ago... the presence of the U.S. military and others has given a boost to an already-reviving economy," the executive, who also asked not to be named, told Reuters.

'I really don't call this a crisis. The whole region is booming for us.'

Firms ranging from major corporations like the huge state-run oil producer Saudi Aramco to private local firms have evacuation contingency plans for workers in case of war.

But knowledgeable sources agreed that optimism for near-term financial prospects has largely overridden the initial crisis-linked fears of local businessmen.

Accelerated multi-billion dollar plans for expansion by Aramco into the 21st century as well as military spending, the growth of petrochemical industries and government-backed economic diversification are the keys for this brightened outlook, businessmen and diplomats said.

"We coined the phrase, business as usual - but not under normal circumstances," Theo-

dore Bevec, a Saudi-based executive of Ameron Inc. the California-based oil industry construction firm, said in an interview.

"You'd think there'd be some (foreign) businesses who would have pulled out after the invasion. It's been kind of surprising that I've not heard of any," said Bevec, who acts as chief spokesman for U.S. business in the Gulf region as head of the American Business Council.

me it's the same for them," Abdul-Latif said.

General Motors' area director Terry Indge reports demand for vehicles from government and commercial sources are so brisk that supplies are strained — but not his optimism.

"It could get very nasty here if war breaks out," he said. "Whatever happens, we're looking long-term. This market bounces back very quickly. We're expanding our training programme and expect aggressive growth in the area."

But several diplomats and businessmen said the impasse between Iraq and the U.S. — led coalition over Kuwait has slowed work to drum up new non-military investment from Western and Asian sources.

"The prospect for investment in the next decade should be very good. But with Europe 1992, the romance of Eastern Europe and now the current crisis, I can see a marking of time on new investment in the region until there's a resolution," a Western diplomat said.

A number of possible new joint ventures between outside firms and Saudi interests are "on hold," a Western banker said. But he predicted "interest will be revived very quickly if there's a fight and Saddam Hussein gets a bloody nose."

"But if Iraq merely withdraws from Kuwait and goes unbloodied, it could prove unsettling for some of these projects because troops will have to remain in Kuwait and Iraq will still be a threat," he added.



A camel getting a lift to the market in Hofuf, Saudi Arabia. Bedouin tribesmen used modern technology to hoist his stock onto a truck headed for a weekly sale where prize camels sell for as much as \$10,000.

Food is latest weapon in Soviet political, economic battle

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuters

MOSCOW — Maya Kozlova balanced a scrawny chicken in one large hand, as if weighing it against the wad of pale-blue five-ruble notes clutched tightly in the other.

"There was a time, this stuff was practically free," she said, waving at the piles of meat, eggs and cheese on sale in Moscow's central farmers market.

"But now..." she said, slowly counting out 35 roubles, 10 per cent of her monthly salary as an engineer. "Now, we spend all we have on food."

A small crowd, gathered around fresh loaves of pork, nodded in agreement.

"The law of supply and demand has arrived. The farmers have the supply, and we have the demand," said Yuri Belov.

"Prices can only go up." Business at the farmers market — once largely the preserve of the Soviet elite, speculators and foreigners — is booming, as the low-cost state trade system collapses in a pile of empty shelves, store closings and strict rationing.

While President Mikhail Gorbachev battles his critics over the turn to a market economy, Maya Kozlova and her fellow shoppers, including impoverished pensioners, are paying the price.

The country is plagued by a long list of economic ills: widespread disregard for central economic orders, misguided reforms, a flourishing black market, a decaying railway system, and the collapse of the rouble.

To make matters worse, food

has now emerged as the latest weapon in the Soviet Union's domestic battles, pitting the conservative countryside against radical city-folk and the ethnic republics against the central authorities in Moscow.

The results are chaos in the "planned" marketplace, runaway inflation and long lines in city stores.

But surveys of various regions of the country, by both foreign and Soviet journalists, show no danger of serious hunger and raise questions as to the motivation for massive aid offered by Western agricultural powers and other governments.

And ordinary shoppers, polled at random in Moscow, say that while many goods are no longer available, no-one among their families and friends is going hungry.

Industrial workers, in theory the backbone of the ruling Communist Party, are being well supplied through distribution in their factories and enterprises.

"He who doesn't work here, doesn't eat," says a sign outside a meat processing plant in a bitter front-page cartoon in Izvestia, the influential reformist daily.

The most serious problems appear to be among young families, but especially hard by a severe milk deficit and long-standing shortages of children's food.

"My little boy eats enough, but I worry he is not getting the right vitamins," said one mother as she waited in a queue for salt, the only item on sale in a state meat store.

"The whole traditional system of distribution has collapsed, and

parallel methods of distribution have arisen." Moscow's radical mayor, Gavril Popov, told the city's Communist Party last week.

The Kremlin's attempts at reform have added to the problem. Economist Andrei Sizov told the Liberal Moscow News that

higher state procurement prices for grain, lower utility rates and the writing off of big debts — all to the tune of 100 billion roubles — meant farmers could maintain their income levels with lower production.

With nothing to buy for roubles, farmers have no incentive to sell more to the state. Moscow was now paying the price for moving too slowly on agricultural reform, Sizov said.

Food producers, meanwhile, are turning increasingly to barter with other enterprises, syphoning more food from official channels under central control.

"Whenever a farmer turns now for tractors, cars, spare parts, timber, glass, cement, he is told: 'you give us meat, cheese or grain and you'll get what you want,'" wrote the agricultural daily Selskaya Zhizn.

"So grain has turned into a hard currency itself for which you can get anything you want," it said.

The newspaper said the Kuban region harvested 10.3 million tonnes of grain but had not met state delivery targets of four million tonnes. That pattern holds true elsewhere.

fanning the food panic, at home and abroad, are distortions unique to the Moscow market, particularly the presence of foreigners, who push up prices.

"Many diplomats use the currency black market, so 30 roubles (is around \$1.5) per kilo for meat," said a conservative senior Soviet official.

"Strictly speaking, Muscovites have enough to eat, but all this by-passes shop shelves and the normal trade system."

These "parallel methods" include the black market and the "raids" on warehouses, railway yards and depots packed with scarce goods. Most blame corruption and incompetence in the measure.

Rich agricultural republics meanwhile, have restricted banned outright shipments of fresh produce outside their borders in a bid to stabilise their markets.

Reports from farm areas of the cutbacks were also in reaction against new policies in Moscow and Leningrad barring residents from the traditional better supplies of goods available there.



Soviet women in Leningrad carry cabbages as the city begins to ration food. Distribution problems and panic-buying have left many shops empty, and long queues formed along the main shopping avenue.

King: It is an Arab responsibility to achieve peace

Following is the full text of a speech delivered by His Majesty King Hussein at the Staff College Sunday.

Brother officers, distinguished guests,

On this auspicious occasion, which has become a blessed national event, I greet you as comrades in arms and dear brothers. I am pleased to be with you again to celebrate your graduation from the Staff College. I am delighted to commence by congratulating the graduating officers and thanking the General Command of the Armed Forces for its ceaseless work to increase the efficiency of our courageous Arab army. I also share with the College Command its pride in this achievement and express my appreciation of the efforts of its faculty and staff.

In particular, I extend my warm congratulations to the officers from sisterly and friendly countries who have taken part in this thirty-first class of the Staff College. Their participation with Jordanian officers bears a special meaning which we cherish and will always maintain and seek to strengthen.

Brother officers, distinguished guests,

This time last year, shortly after the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Malta, and in this same place, I addressed the thirtieth graduating class. In that address I touched on several current issues of the time, in particular the promises and dangers of detente, and expressed my hope that the Arab countries would formulate a pan-Arab vision towards the emerging new international order so that we would not be taken by surprise and discover, belatedly, that new international relationships were being formed at our expense.

I remember that on that occasion I spoke with hope more than with fear. There were, on the one hand, inter-Arab problems and differences, whether open or hidden. On the other, the world beyond was moving at a pace far exceeding our countries' capacities to monitor, follow and eventually equip themselves to deal with the new situation, whose ramifications pointed clearly to a world embracing democracy, and espousing cooperation instead of confrontation.

Nonetheless, we were hopeful that these deep-rooted changes in international relations, with all the challenges they represented,

would propel our nation to mobilise, reorganise itself and seek, with a deep sense of history, to project itself effectively on the world scene as a civilised, economic and political group, capable of dealing with others with confidence and mutual respect. Our hope, then, was that the Arab states would have been able to draw the proper conclusions from the changes that took place in numerous countries and move to apply democratic principles and safeguard human rights including freedom of expression. Many of the conflicts and problems that have arisen in several Arab countries and between them were due to the absence of the norms, behaviour and institutions of democracy.

Hoping to revive the Arab Nation, we continued to communicate with our Arab brethren. We did so motivated by a firm conviction in the inevitable coming together of our nation on sound and rational foundations, based on the belief in God and our common destiny, goals and interests. Thereafter we put border-related disputes between some Arab states as a principal item on our agenda considering them as fundamental weaknesses which must be addressed and remedied.

Of those cracks in the Arab system, the Iraq-Kuwait dispute was, in our view, the one that should have received the greatest attention and care to resolve it, because it had reached a very critical and explosive phase in an area whose regional and international importance cannot escape anyone. With good will and the best of intentions, we used our good office with both sides — Iraq and Kuwait — in order to narrow their differences and help bring about an amicable solution. Unfortunately, neither our efforts nor those of the others brought the desired results. Hence our worst fears were realised and the Gulf crisis erupted throwing our region into a new phase of its modern history. The Arab world found itself facing a severe test, the like of which it had never experienced since the creation of the League of Arab States. Disagreement between two sister countries turned into a wider chasm in the Arab system which foreign powers, in pursuit of their interests, hastened to penetrate and to interfere

directly in our own Arab affairs.

In this regard we, in Jordan, decided from the very first day of the crisis that our pan-Arab duty dictated that we should not be dragged into taking sides. We held this position in order to be able to work with everyone who opted for a similar attitude to contain the problem and bury the seeds of sedition and resolve the crisis through peaceful means within an Arab framework. Our deep concern was the fear that the problem would be internationalised thus growing in scope and complexity.

This is why we were keen to seek a peaceful resolution to this conflict within an Arab framework, based on our adherence to the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and to ensure the rights and interests of the two sisterly countries.

Regrettably events took the course which we had feared. A process of escalation started which complicated the crisis. The one problem became multifaceted and the parties to the conflict increased to include others beyond the original two antagonists. The Arab Nation suddenly found itself facing a situation reminiscent of the dangerous one in which it found itself in 1918. Then, it discovered that its course had been set for it through the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the Balfour Declaration and, at a later stage, by the League of Nations.

I do not intend to review the events since August 2, with which you are familiar. But I will say that our Arab region is on the verge of a very destructive war. This war, God forbid that it should happen, will result in a grave tragedy which will affect not only the present, but also the future. In addition, it will cause a severe international economic crisis, an environmental catastrophe, deep wounds that will take a long time to heal, and long-lasting world instability. What are we to do? Will we allow ourselves to slide into this abyss? Or will we recognise this bitter reality and its ramifications? Will we transform August 2, 1990 into a scar that will be concealed by the restoration of Arab solidarity, or will we allow it to become a festering wound depleting our strength for a long time?

Our historic duty towards ourselves and our future generations compels us to wake up and

to deflect the dangers awaiting us. I believe a rescue operation is still possible and that the responsibility for it falls upon us, the Arabs, without any exceptions. If we are resolute in correcting our course and are ready for a peaceful settlement, then there are some principles which we must recall and abide by.

Foremost amongst these principles that must be activated is the one that gives the Arab mediator the opportunity to act by engaging both parties to the conflict in a dialogue which will prepare the road for them to sit down together to negotiate a resolution to the problems which gave rise to this conflict.

One of the most salient features of the Gulf crisis is what I described before as the embargo on dialogue which resulted from the absence of a mediating third party and the prevention of its emergence, although the crisis is on the verge of a destructive military confrontation. This runs against the norms of international behaviour which are supported by the experience that the resolution of international conflicts requires the presence of a mediator, particularly at the early stages of a conflict, to help resolve it peacefully.

The second principle which needs to be adopted in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict is the principle of compromise. This principle leads ultimately to a balanced and final resolution since it allows for a process of give and take which results in an outcome acceptable to both parties.

The third important principle is the need to discuss the Gulf crisis within a comprehensive outlook which takes into account other problems of the region, which equally threaten world peace and the world's economy. Besides the Gulf crisis, our region, which contains the largest oil reserves alongside a burgeoning arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, still suffers from the serious repercussions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the failure to resolve the Palestinian problem. It is clear that peace and security will not prevail in the Middle East if only the Gulf crisis is resolved. Weapons of mass destruction cannot be eliminated from the region if the Arab-Israeli conflict is not settled. Likewise the world will not be reassured of its economic stability if the entire region does not achieve security based on a just and honourable peace.

The Middle East problems are by definition interrelated and this is not subject to the decisions of one country or another, nor the decisions and moods of their leaders. What is required is the adherence to the implementation of international legitimacy in resolving conflicts on which resolutions were adopted by the same body, the Security Council. Otherwise, how can the principle of international legitimacy, which is invoked by the superpowers, be respected and be made relevant to the new world order? How can we put our faith in international legitimacy if we do not reap its advantages equally as members of the United Nations? The resolutions of the Security Council pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict, of which the Palestinian problem is the root cause, must be implemented with the same vigour with which the implementation of the resolutions on the Gulf crisis is being pursued. This will ensure respect for international legitimacy and reassure small countries of their future in the new world order.

Twenty three years have passed since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 242 which has been accepted by all parties including the PLO. It has yet to be implemented. The Palestinian problem continues to fester and cause great suffering to the Palestinian people which is known to the whole world.

It is high time for all to defend international legitimacy by upholding it, and for the Security Council to show that it applies one and not two yardsticks.

Hence, we call for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East at the time when the implementation of Security Council resolutions regarding Kuwait begins. The task of this Conference should be the implementation, without delay, of Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict with a clear determination and commitment by all. This conference should be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, and all parties to the conflict including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The convening of this conference should not be viewed as a favour from anyone nor a reward to anyone. It would be a wise decision by the international body aimed at resolving all the

problems of the Middle East and in affirmation of the credibility of international legitimacy. This would put an end to conflicts in our region, pave the way for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in it, and strengthen peace and security.

The Gulf crisis, the world economy in its oil dimension, the Palestinian problem and weapons of mass destruction are all interrelated Middle Eastern problems. In our view any position or approach or international effort to resolve only one of these problems in isolation from others, would fail to produce security, stability and peace in the region. At best, it would freeze the crises temporarily and only delay the moment of explosion, rather than remove their root causes. This would come at a time when the whole world has turned from confrontation to cooperation, and to progress and prosperity instead of death and destruction.

Brother Officers, Distinguished Guests,

Our optimism and our eagerness to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, and to spread stability in it for the benefit of its peoples as well as the world economy, prompt us to view the initiative of President Bush of the 30th of November as a positive development and a correction of the course that had been pursued hitherto in dealing with the Gulf crisis, which is interrelated with other problems in the region.

This initiative conforms with the rules pertaining to the resolution of international disputes, and with what Iraq, one of the principle parties of the conflict, has always called for. It also opens the door for direct dialogue between Iraq and the United States. I emphasise here a dialogue between the two parties, in all that is implied by this word, in all the languages spoken on the face of the earth. This is what we called for and expected from the beginning of the crisis, since the United States became a party to the dispute, by virtue of its prominent role in the adoption of Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis, its participation with the biggest proportion of the allied forces that were deployed in the region, and its command of these forces.

The initiative of President Bush to hold direct contacts with

the Iraqi leadership comes after the latest Security Council resolution authorising the United Nations to use all means, including military force, to implement the Security Council resolution on the Gulf. Nevertheless, we see in it a source of hope to avoid the misery of a destructive war. Therefore we welcome it and hope that all parties will have the patience and true determination to ensure its success, so that this initiative can be the starting point in a serious move to solve the Gulf crisis according to a comprehensive outlook that seeks to solve all the problems of the region, especially the Palestinian problem. Iraq's decision to allow all foreigners to leave constitutes a demonstration of good will, in addition to its noble human dimension that elevates the value of human life above all else. Therefore it deserves appreciation and respect, and it should only be interpreted in this context.

Brothers,

The forthcoming Iraqi-American dialogue does not mean that the Arab states should satisfy themselves with the role of spectators awaiting results. We in Jordan call for the start of an Arab-Arab dialogue parallel to the Iraqi-American dialogue to deal with the Gulf crisis, because it is an Arab issue which concerns the Arabs primarily, as applies to the Palestinian problem. This dialogue must spring from our concern for our nation's future, independence, fortitude cohesiveness, the good of its future generations, and the rights and interests of the antagonists. We should be guided in this by the fear of God, our faithfulness to the struggle of our forefathers and the sacrifice of the Arab martyrs, and our compliance with the tenets of our faith and the teachings of our Arab prophet. None of us can believe that a single Arab could accept that an Arab problem which could be solved within the Arab context, should provide the inroad for the destruction of Iraq's military and technological strength. This, at a time when the heroic Palestinian people respond with stones to bullets, when the third holiest shrine (Al Haram Al Sharif) faces a conspiracy to Judaize it, while the waves of Soviet immigrants continue to pour into Palestine in fulfillment of the Zionist dream, and Israel continues to develop

its arsenal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, which are intended for use against us Arabs. We find it hard to believe that the United States should accept to hold direct contacts with Iraq, and that Europe should declare its willingness to talk to Iraq, while the Arab antagonists reject such a dialogue. No one among us can believe that a single Arab rejects the linkage between the solution of the Gulf crisis and the solution of the Palestinian problem, the rescue of our holy places, and the stemming of the Israeli expansion. We consider the mere insinuation by non-Arabs that a single Arab can reject the linkage between the two problems, an insult to the whole Arab Nation. If such an Arab exists, let him identify himself, otherwise let the world hear from this nation, its collective view clearly and beyond any doubt. At this point I would like to quote our popular saying: "Blood is thicker than water." Based on this truth, I call on all my brother Arab leaders to stop their recriminations and preoccupation with apportioning guilt and innocence, and to prevent the deepening of the rift and heightening of polarisation. Instead, let us start a comprehensive and frank dialogue. The opportunity for reconciliation and accord between Arabs will always be there. More importantly, the opportunity for solving the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem, on the basis of international legitimacy, has never been better than it is today. Let us seize this opportunity or we will be cursed by God and by history. Let us bury our grievances and put an end to sedition, doubts and suspicions. Let us end the fabrication of conspiracy theories and tales of Arab plots against other Arabs, so we can thwart the intrigues of the covetous who always fish in troubled waters. Let us close our ranks and solve our problems to retrieve our Jerusalem by the grace of God and with His help.

Brother Officers,

Once again I congratulate you from my heart, and I thank you and wish you all success. I pray to God to guide us to do His will, and to guide our nation and its leaders to the path of righteousness.

God bless you all

Parliament

(Continued from page 1) defending democracy in Jordan while freely elected members of parliament were calling on curbing democracy instead of developing it.

"Indiscipline, division and chaos are the biggest enemies of democracy; we fear that what we are practising is heading to the wrong direction," Sroor said.

Replying to a call by another deputy on the government to talk to Iraqi officials about the repeated confiscation of Jordanian-owned cars with Kuwaiti license plates on the Iraqi-Jordanian border, Masa'adeh said that high-level contact has been made on the issue between the two countries.

Deputy Hamzeh Mansour said many Jordanians living in

Kuwait had complained that their cars were not allowed to cross the border into Jordan because they had not changed their licence plates from "Kuwait" to "Iraq."

"Our prime minister recently brought up this subject with the Iraqi deputy prime minister and he replied that he did not have sufficient information on the issue. But our contacts with Iraq are continuous and I hope the problems will soon be solved," Masa'adeh told the House.

Earlier in the session, deputies discussed and approved several draft laws put forth by the Legal Committee concerning amendments to laws dealing with state-owned land, the Martyrs of the Armed Forces Fund and the management of orphans' funds.

The management of the orphans' funds was debated among the House for 50 minutes.

The Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists argued that the funds should not be deposited in the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), but in other banks "that follow the rules of Islamic Sharia."

The original article of the law stipulated that all the funds be deposited only in the CBJ. The draft amendment stipulated that the funds be deposited in any bank which was decided on by the board of directors of the orphans' fund management and development foundation.

After quoting a verse in the Holy Koran on orphans, Islamist Deputy Sheikh Abdul Mun'em Abu Zant said that orphans' money was private and that the Central Bank was public, adding that their funds should therefore be deposited and invested in private banks abiding with Sharia.

After a long and heated debate, the amendment was barely passed with 34 votes among 69 attending the session.

Intifada

(Continued from page 1)

Square in nearby Bethlehem called for 1991 to be "the year of destroying the enemy."

They were signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFL), a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Another slogan signed by the fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad said: "The language of stones, knives, and bullets is the only language the enemy will understand."

The army curfews coincided with a general strike called by uprising leaders to mark the anniversary. Virtually all shops and schools and traffic were idle. Army radio reported that only

Jewish settlers and army patrols were seen driving in the occupied territories.

The increasingly violent Israeli-Palestinian relations since the Oct. 8 massacre of at least 20 Palestinians in Jerusalem — a reversal of declining tension earlier in the year — produced a threat of sweeping reprisals from Science Minister Yuval Neeman.

Last week, shots were fired at a bus carrying Israeli settlers in the West Bank and an underground pamphlet calling for increased resistance by "all means" was thought a possible call for armed struggle.

Neeman, leader of the small far-right Tehiya party in Shamir's ruling coalition, said Palestinians would be forced from their country if they turned to firearms in their revolt.

"If the Arabs are truly shifting to a violent struggle against us with firearms, they will bring upon themselves the same thing

that happened to them in 1948 and they will flee their homes," Neeman told army radio.

Neeman said he did not support proposals to drive all 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip into other countries, but did want the half who were refugees resettled in other countries.

"The real solution...is the rehabilitation of the Arab refugees from 1948 after more than 40 years — their rehabilitation in Arab countries," said Neeman, father of Israel's nuclear programme.

Border

(Continued from page 1)

its southern tip in Kuwaiti territory.

The newspaper said the approach was first made through Oman, which has good relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and the Omanis discussed it with

Yemen, "one of Iraq's few Arab backers, which dealt directly with Baghdad."

Before the article was published, the official Saudi Press Agency late Saturday quoted a "responsible source," its term for a government spokesman, as denying unspecified reports that the kingdom had "agreed to make concessions" over Kuwait.

"The source stated anew that the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is firm and well-known, based on the necessity of a full and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti soil and the return of the legitimate leadership of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and his government," the agency reported.

The source was quoted as denying the unspecified reports, "in whole and in their details." It was not the first such denial. Saudi Arabia has several times insisted that its policy over

Kuwait is not changing.

A Saudi source, meanwhile, asserted that Iraq does not have the economic resources to sustain a war and the morale among Iraqi troops in Kuwait is "very low."

The allied strategy envisions initial aerial bombardment of Iraqi supply lines and strategic targets, but would not necessarily involve any movement of ground forces into Iraq, the source indicated, the AP reported.

"I think it will not take them long to surrender," he said. "I expect most of the vital objects will be attacked and dealt with so they have no choice but to seek a ceasefire."

For the moment, Iraqi forces remain in a "defensive posture" scattered along the Kuwaiti border with Saudi Arabia and along Kuwaiti beaches behind lines of barbed wire, ditches and minefields, he said.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Bangladesh leaders face daunting economic task

DHAKA (R) — The new leaders of Bangladesh face the daunting task of trying to right an economy reeling from political turmoil and natural disaster.

"The poverty situation of Bangladesh is still overwhelming," said Atiur Rahman, a senior Bangladeshi economist.

Economists and businessmen said President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who resigned Tuesday, had failed after nearly nine years in power to deliver on promises to attack the grinding poverty that has been the lot of most Bangladeshis since independence in 1971.

Ershad was replaced by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed who must oversee new parliamentary elections by March 4.

Per capita income is \$170 a year, one of the lowest in the world.

But the poorest 40 per cent of the population survive on as little as \$82," Rahman said.

Many blame Ershad for mismanagement and for his introduction of what one businessman called "crony capitalism," or passing wealth to associates who may have taken much of it out of the country.

Ershad, who seized power in 1982 promising the private sector greater investment and export opportunities, bowed out after a three-year campaign by opposi-

tion parties backed by students, workers and other groups.

"Many viable nationalised industries were given to his (Ershad's) men at throwaway prices. And many of them have now been closed," said a senior industry official, complaining that many of those chosen had little ability to run the businesses.

A World Bank report in October praised Ershad for some of his economic reforms and for managing the exchange rate but said much still needed to be done.

"The government is only now beginning to come to grips with ... establishing clear expenditure priorities and formulating a realistic and sound public expenditure programme," it said.

The report criticised the poor use of foreign aid which it recommended at \$2 billion for the current fiscal year to next June, 400 million below the previous year.

The Gulf crisis has dealt another body blow to disaster-prone Bangladesh.

Official figures estimated that this fiscal year the country will lose \$100 million its workers would normally have sent home from Iraq and Kuwait. Its oil import bill could rise by \$300 million.

Real growth

Real growth in gross domestic

product has been well below target at only 3.9 per cent a year from 1985-90 compared with a projected 5.4 per cent.

Rahman said purchasing power in the five years to the end of 1988 was about 25 per cent lower than in the second half of the 1960s.

"Real wages have shown an average decline of about five per cent annually during the past four years," he added.

Government officials said the new administration was under tremendous pressure from Ershad's foes to start inquiries into alleged squandering of national wealth.

Acting President Ahmed in his first national broadcast Friday said the country was in serious economic crisis.

He urged donor countries to continue giving aid so Bangladesh could withstand the pressure on its economy and appealed to Bangladeshis to work harder.

The message seems to have been well received at home.

Engineers said in a statement Saturday they would work two extra hours a day to make up for the frequent strikes and other disruptions during Ershad's rule.

"The country has been reborn. Once again the nation begins with a clean slate," said Rehman Sobhan, a leading economist and former head of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.



Hashemi Rafsanjani

Rafsanjani presents draft budget

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani presented the budget for the Iranian year 1370, beginning March 21, to parliament Sunday, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, did not give full details of the draft budget.

But it quoted Rafsanjani as saying it was the first since the end of the 1980-88 war with Iraq, which the two countries formally settled in August.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that the budget would continue the social, economic and cultural improvement of his country.

The radio did not say whether, or how much, foreign borrowing was called for in the draft.

Radicals who dominate the house, oppose foreign borrowing. But Rafsanjani, considered a pragmatist, has made it a main feature of this five-year reconstruction plan, begun last year, which calls for \$120 billion in foreign investment.

The parliament earlier approved \$17.5 billion in foreign loans for the current year, after considerable cajoling by Rafsanjani.

Figures for expenditure were not given by the radio, but it quoted Rafsanjani as saying that the deficit, which fuels the country's staggering inflation, was cut to \$15.7 billion, down from the current year's \$22.6 billion.

He said inflation was cut from 24 per cent to five per cent. It is estimated to be considerably higher.

Rafsanjani said that revenue projections in next year's budget were "more realistic than in the current year's."

The current budget had to be revamped because almost none of the revenue projections made in it were met.

Yet, Rafsanjani revealed that projected earnings for next year were even higher than this year's.

Revenues for 1370 are expected at \$101 billion, almost double this year's \$57.3 billion projection.

More than half the earnings — \$5.7 per cent — are expected to come from oil and gas, Iran's main sources of foreign exchange.

Failure of Brussels talks raises doubt on future accord

By Mariam Crutsinger
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The failure to meet the deadline for a new global trade package has raised doubts about whether the world can ever achieve the accord deemed vital for expanding trade and avoiding a protectionist backlash.

The United States and other major countries are vowing to keep pressing forward, but after five frustrating days of bitter negotiations last week, there was little hint of how the disputes could be narrowed.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills refused to admit permanent defeat even though she was not able to bridge the gap between the United States and the 12-nation European Community (EC) over farm subsidies.

It was this issue that proved the biggest stumbling block during the Brussels conference that had been scheduled to complete a four-year-long negotiating effort known as the Uruguay Round, for the country, where the talks were launched.

"Not over"

"The round isn't over until the fat lady sings," Hills told reporters after the talks involving 117 nations were indefinitely suspended Friday.

But she said the United States would not be willing to come back to the negotiating table until

the European Community, agrees to deeper cuts in farm subsidies than it has proposed so far.

EC officials, however, said the United States was seeking politically unrealistic cuts and they gave no indication they planned to deepen the modest offer they have made.

Senior officials of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Geneva-based organisation which is conducting the negotiations, will conduct behind-the-scenes discussions searching for a breakthrough.

The talks might be restarted at a lower level in Geneva in late January. But many believe that would give negotiators too little time to come up with agreements before a March 1 deadline for submission of a finished deal to the U.S. Congress.

President George Bush can ask for an automatic two-year extension of the talks as long as neither house of congress objects. But such a delay could jeopardise the project by allowing opponents of freer trade more time to gather support.

Already in the United States various groups from textile manufacturers to sugar producers have announced opposition to the whole exercise, complaining that they would lose protections they currently enjoy.

In addition, the deep acrimony that emerged during the Brussels conference threatens to spill over

U.K. minister slams U.S.

LONDON (R) — British Agriculture Minister John Gummer Sunday accused the United States of precipitating the collapse of last week's talks on a new world trade deal.

Speaking on British Television, Gummer said the Americans had "pulled the plug on the thing on Friday."

He said the U.S. had stuck rigidly to its position for more than a year. "America has got

to think very seriously about the way she has tried to get a deal which would protect her own farmers and affect everybody else's farmers."

Gummer, in an interview on London Weekend Television, said of the U.S. stance: "They should be a little less strident and have a bit more stamina to sit down there and go on and on and not let anybody get up until they have a deal."

into increased trade frictions outside the negotiating area.

Third World

Sidelined by the dispute they were powerless to influence, Third World states have come away from the GATT talks with little of the progress towards more open markets they had hoped for.

"We feel we have come for nothing," according to Niger's Economic Minister Sabo Nassirou told Reuters.

Developing countries entered the talks four years ago with high hopes of bigger world markets for their farm produce, textiles and minerals. They left Brussels largely empty-handed.

"We do not think it is appropriate to suspend talks after four years," said Nigeria's Trade Minister Senas Ukepanah.

"The problem is that the entire negotiation has been hijacked by an issue that has become a bilateral issue. The multilateral character of the negotiations has evaporated," said Subramaniam Swamy, India's commerce minister.

American negotiators expressed disappointment that Japan, which has benefited from open markets more than any other nation, failed to back up the U.S. effort to reduce farm subsidies. The Japanese are insisting on keeping their rice market closed to foreigners.

The Japanese position and the intransigence of the European Community are likely to intensify pressure on the U.S. government to take action on a number of unfair trade complaints that are pending.

Riyadh to shut refinery

CAIRO (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, will temporarily shut its fire-damaged Ras Tannurah refinery for maintenance, a Saudi oil source said Saturday.

"Ras Tannurah will be closed within a few days for purely maintenance purposes. No specific date has been set yet and it will be shut for a period not exceeding a week," the source told Reuters.

With a design capacity of 530,000 barrels per day (BPD), the refinery is considered the world's biggest, but Saudi-based oil sources said it was processing only about 350,000 BPD when it was damaged by fire Nov. 30.

The source said the refinery was processing about 250,000 BPD at present.

Traders have said the Saudi Arabian Marketing Refining Company (SAMAREC), the kingdom's oil products sales arm, had asked clients due to load at Ras Tannurah next week if they wanted to use another refinery or delay loading.

The Saudi source said one or two products would not be delivered to the international market but declined to identify them.

Industry sources said this meant Saudi Arabia might have to declare force majeure on some products for a few customers during the shutdown.

Domestic demand and the majority of contracts will be met by the other six refineries

in the kingdom, the source said.

The fire damaged one unit of the refinery and Gulf-based oil industry executives have estimated it would take from one to six months to repair the damage.

The source rejected this. "There is no major damage, the temporary move is to make sure that the accident will not happen again."

"I can assure you there was no sabotage. It was a simple technical accident that could happen to any refinery in the world."

Part of Ras Tannurah's output was jet fuel and diesel oil used by the multinational force massed in Saudi Arabia since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Oil, gas finds could turn the economic tide — Aquino

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said Sunday new oil and gas finds in the Philippines could turn the economic tide for the country.

In an address to the nation, Aquino said she was told Sunday

morning that oil had been discovered off the island of Palawan, northeast of Borneo.

She described the find as a "silver lining" for the Philippines, which is facing severe economic problems due to the sharp rise in

world oil prices since the Gulf crisis. The country imports almost all its oil.

"This could very well signal a new era of progress and the turning of the tide," Aquino said.

"It will perhaps beckon investors to return and new ones to come to help create wealth and employment."

Charles Alcorn, chief executive officer of the Houston-based Alcorn Petroleum Incorporated, said his company had reported "a very large discovery of oil" to Aquino.

The company's West Linapan number one well off Palawan had struck oil with a flow rate of 6,116 barrels of oil a day.

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Deutschmark	445.1	447.8	Swedish crown	118.2	118.9
Swiss franc	525.9	529.1	Italian lira (for 100)	59.4	59.8
French franc	131.8	132.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	216.0	217.3

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AMMAN

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Walesa wins landslide victory

WARSAW (Agencies) — Shipyard electrician Lech Walesa swept to landslide victory in Poland's first popular residential vote Sunday, taking the helm of the country he led out of communism in a decade-long struggle, exit polls showed.

The poll by the German Infas organisation said Walesa won 77 per cent of the vote to 23 per cent for Stanislaw Tyminski in the run-off poll.

It was issued minutes after polling ended at 1900 GMT in Poland's first democratic presidential election.

The agency accurately forecast the result of the first-round vote on Nov. 25 in which Tyminski shocked the nation by beating Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki into third place and qualifying to challenge Walesa in the run-off.

The victory crowned Walesa's struggle during the 1980s as head of the Solidarity trade union to overthrow communism and establish democracy in Poland.

The 47-year-old leader, who came to symbolise the country's struggle for freedom in the 1980s, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his role in establishing the union.

He has said he would be a "flying Dutchman" president, moving around the country to settle problems and speed passage to

full democracy and a free market economy.

He also said communists guilty of crimes would be punished.

The vote showed that Poles rallied to Walesa in the second round after he branded Tyminski a communist stooge. He said the emigre businessman was spearheading a counter-attack by former security police officers against the Solidarity revolution.

Walesa's share of the vote rose from 40 per cent in the first round to 77 per cent on Sunday, while Tyminski's support remained static at 23 per cent.

All opinion polls favoured Walesa to crown his 10-year struggle against communism by triumphantly replacing ex-Communist General Wojciech Jaruzelski as president.

Taking over the elegant presidential palace from Jaruzelski would be a poignant victory for Walesa, who was among thousands interned when Jaruzelski imposed martial law in 1981 in a bid to crush Solidarity.

Almost all voters among scores interviewed by Reuters reporters in Warsaw said they cast their ballots for the Solidarity leader.

"Walesa because I like him and he risked his life for us all," said 58-year-old housewife Czeslawa Grabarczyk at a Warsaw polling station. "Tyminski? We know too little about him."

"Walesa will bring some order," said Robert Kaczmarek, a 51-year-old waiter. "Tyminski is an unknown man to me and my family. We don't know where he came from."

The Roman Catholic primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp, an influential figure in this overwhelmingly Catholic country, turned out to support Walesa, casting his ballot for the first time in an election.

Glemp has dismissed Tyminski as "a joke of history."

Buoyed by the forecasts of a possible landslide in his favour, Walesa was in a confident mood when he voted near his home in the northern port of Gdansk, birthplace of Solidarity.

"I voted for the best one," he said after casting his ballot with his wife Danuta and the second of their eight children, 18-year-old Slawomir.

Tyminski said nothing as he voted in the village of Pecice outside Warsaw with his Peruvian wife Graciela.

Only two of nearly 100 voters interviewed by Reuters in Warsaw said they cast their ballots for Tyminski, but pollsters believe he may do better than their surveys had forecast.

Tension was so high after a bitter, mud-slinging campaign that some voters were afraid to reveal their true intentions.

The 42-year-old challenger, unknown in Poland six weeks ago, gathered an emotional following among those hardest-hit by austerity and economic reorganisation.

His supporters include Silesian miners who face pit closures, farmers who lost subsidies and pensioners living on pittance amid continued inflation.

Tyminski, who made a business fortune in Canada and Peru, promised to show Poles how to become rich and build "a democracy of money" but he never explained how he would do it.

He complained bitterly about the campaign against him that included organised heckling and press and television allegations of wife-beating, drug-taking, epilepsy and mental illness.

Walesa mounted a no-holds-barred campaign after Tyminski, riding a tide of protest against harsh government austerity policies, came a shock second in the Nov. 25 first round.

His dramatic charge that the challenger was a front man for former Communist secret police officers trying to reverse the Solidarity revolution appeared to stop Tyminski's snowballing campaign in its tracks.

Almost all political groups as well as the church rallied to Walesa's support.

KGB reports massive food theft

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet KGB security service has said that theft by organised criminals and distribution bottlenecks were to blame for acute shortages of food and other staple goods in the Soviet Union.

In a report published by the Soviet News Agency (TASS), the KGB said it had uncovered several incidents of organised groups diverting food — one week after President Mikhail Gorbachev ordered workers' militias to guard against such abuses.

Imported cargoes, including food supplies, lay unloaded in ports and rail yards because of inefficient transport, it added.

But the report, entitled "uncovering the reasons for the difficulties," concentrated on Soviet-produced goods and not on the foreign aid now being sent into the country.

It described an attempt to smuggle 150 tonnes of scarce milk powder abroad, the discovery of 76 tonnes of stolen rice in a ravine in Uzbekistan, and the diversion of three to five tonnes of beef and mutton daily from a Ukrainian meat packing plant for resale at a profit.

Officers who found goods worth tens of thousands of rubles hidden in state shops were offered bribes by staff, it said.

Shipments of meat, flour, sugar and other goods from Germany, Cuba and Belgium was piling up in the port of Leningrad and 2,400 cars intended for export were stuck in the port of Riga, capital of Latvia, it said.

Worst hit of all were ports in the Soviet Far East, where bottlenecks had practically halted rail freight through Siberia.

The KGB suggested some Western firms were conniving in the blockades to drive down the price of Soviet exports.

Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders blame a thriving black market and hugely inefficient transport for the shortages of basic goods that blight the lives of consumers.

Appeals to the West to provide food aid have prompted a huge inflow of goods to Moscow and other industrial cities, but senior officials deny the country is on the brink of famine.

Moscow's Deputy Mayor Sergei Stankevich Saturday blamed the shortages on the collapsing economy and said the city council would create a special commission to protect food supplies from the black market.

A group of headline lawmakers accused Gorbachev of turning the Soviet Union into a "beggar country" and demanded a halt to international aid, news reports said Saturday.

Indian army called into Hyderabad after riots

HYDERABAD, India (R) — The Indian army was sent into the southern city of Hyderabad Sunday with shoot-on-sight orders after at least 52 more people were killed in Hindu-Muslim violence, officials said.

Hundreds of troops were sent into the streets to stop the violence in which rampaging mobs attacked each other with knives, set fire to shops and looted them Saturday night and early Sunday.

Officials said the soldiers were ordered to shoot on sight anyone on the streets of the old city which was placed under indefinite curfew Friday when 17 people were killed in the first outbreak.

Unofficial accounts put the death toll Saturday and Sunday at 60, with witnesses saying at least eight more people were killed Sunday morning. It was the worst sectarian violence in Hyderabad which has a high Muslim population.

The officials said about 200 people were injured, some seriously, in rioting that erupted again despite the curfew.

Troops were also reported to have been sent into Aligarh, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where serious Hindu-Muslim tension was first generated by a dispute over a holy site.

The United Nations of India (UNI) said 15 people had been killed in sectarian violence in Aligarh over the past two days.

Four of the dead were Muslims pulled off an express train stormed by Hindus and killed near Aligarh, home of one of India's top Muslim universities.

The mob was able to target Muslims because the names of reserved passengers are posted on the outside of Indian train carriages.

Muslim residents said the trouble started when a small mob was looted into a mosque during Friday prayers. Students at the

Muslim University had been locked into their hostels to prevent them taking to the streets, they said.

The trouble in Hyderabad began when a Muslim leader was attacked by Hindus over a land dispute. Because of high tension in Uttar Pradesh, the trouble quickly flared into riots.

The Ayodhya dispute, which has simmered for more than a year and was instrumental in the fall of two governments, sprang up again in late October.

Hindu militants twice stormed police lines in an effort to tear down the mosque they say was built by India's first Moghul emperor in 1528 on the birthplace of Lord Rama, one of the main gods in the Hindu pantheon. At least 15 people were killed.

The militants resumed their campaign Thursday, but this time largely peacefully with about 1,000 people a day offering themselves for arrest by symbolically breaching police lines around the mosque.

They were being taken to jail in buses and released after a few days.

In Ayodhya, police arrested a 23-year-old man trying to enter the mosque site carrying explosives, the area's administrator said Sunday.

District Commissioner Madhukar Gupta told Reuters: "Our boys saw two people trying to get through the fence last night."

"One ran away in the dark and into the undergrowth on that side of the site. The other was caught, carrying 28 sticks of dynamite."

He said the youth who ran away was thought to be associated with Shiv Sena, a radical Hindu party.

Gupta said since last Thursday police had arrested more than 4,000 militants involved in a civil disobedience campaign round the mosque site.

Column 10000

Lennon fans honour slain idol

NEW YORK (R) — A small crowd held a silent vigil before the driveway where John Lennon got out of his limousine after a late night recording session 10 years ago and was shot dead. At the Dakota apartment block, some stood holding the hands of small children, others held bouquets of flowers. All remembered the former Beatle who died at age 40 just as he was beginning a comeback after years as a recluse in the gothic-style block of flats.

Others gathered in the corner of Central Park dedicated by his widow, Yoko Ono, as an impromptu shrine to the slain musician. Music blared from tape decks as guitarists played Beatles songs. A man selling "legalise marijuana" buttons, little daughter in tow, was at the Dakota apartment building 10 years ago and was back Saturday. He said the pain of Lennon's murder had lessened and Lennon's message remained the same. "John Lennon made a positive impact, to strive for justice and peace in his music and his life. This message is keeping him alive," said Aaron Kay, who has been coming every year to the spot where the musician was gunned down by a crazed fan, Mark David Chapman. Kay, sweatshirt and cap adorned with peace symbols, added, "when you speak out, you get blown away. It happened to the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X — and John."

He said the six dead policemen were travelling in a police van that was destroyed by a bomb

Blast kills 8 near Barcelona

BARCELONA (R) — A powerful car bomb exploded in the northeastern Spanish town of Sabadell, killing six policemen and two civilians and injuring 15 other people, a spokesman for the Barcelona city authorities said.

He said the six dead policemen were travelling in a police van that was destroyed by a bomb

planted in a parked car. The two other policemen in the van were injured.

The president of Catalonia regional government, Jordi Pujol, called on residents to come forward with information on the explosion, which he said was most likely the work of the Basque separatist group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom).

"Everything indicates that this has been the work of ETA and that this organisation has managed to reform an action group in Catalonia," he told Spanish National Radio.

ETA's last big operation in Catalonia was in 1987, when a bomb exploded in a Barcelona supermarket, killing 21 people.

Thai premier reappointed after resignation

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, who resigned Saturday in a last-ditch effort to shake off nagging generals, was reappointed Sunday.

He announced his reinstatement to reporters, waiting at his residence after the president of the parliament brought him the royal command from King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Chatichai immediately pledged a more honest government. "My immediate policy for the second Chatichai administration is honesty and more competence," he said.

The reappointment was widely expected and attention now focuses on how Chatichai will forge a new coalition to rule Thailand.

The 68-year-old former general quit after a long-running dispute with the powerful military, who accused his government of tolerating corruption and demanded the removal of several cabinet ministers.

Chatichai said it would take a few days to form a new government because he was still talking to other parties.

His Chart Thai Party holds 96 seats in the 357-seat parliament and has ruled for two years through a seven-party coalition.

Chatichai said he hoped the new government would halt the damage to the economy caused by months of political uncertainty and that the new administration would satisfy the military.

Deputy Education Minister Chalermporn Yooabamrungs, who had angered the army by accusing it of corruption and meddling too much in politics, would not be in the new government, Chatichai added.

The generals' dispute with Chatichai reached a crisis point after they claimed the premier reneged on a deal to sack him.

The drawn-out political crisis has taxed the patience of Thais who are still getting used to democracy after a series of military governments and changes of power.

He said the party had been "completely marginalised in British society," partly because of its association with undemocratic Communist parties in Eastern Europe.

Miss Temple predicted the party's numerical weakness would compel it to abandon parliamentary campaigns and link with other groups like the environmentalists to form a broad-based political association of the left.

Miss Temple, 34, was chosen by the party's executive committee in January to succeed Gordon McLennan, who retired at age 62 after 14 years as general secretary.

Her first act was to change the title of her post to "secretary" as she said the old title had unwanted associations with the past when party members were simply given orders.

The party was founded in 1920s and became a considerable force in the labour unions and universities in the 1920s and 1940s under the leadership of Harry Pollitt, its general secretary from 1929 to

Yugoslav Communists face final voting tests

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Voters in Yugoslavia's last Marxist-ruled republics cast ballots Sunday in multiparty elections that will influence whether the Balkan nation remains united or breaks apart.

In the largest state of Serbia, on the first free ballot in more than 50 years, the ruling Socialists — hardline Communists renamed — face an array of centre-right nationalists.

The nationalist parties, led by the Serbian Renewal Movement, want the restoration of capitalism and the return of the state's dominance in the Yugoslav Federation.

In the struggle to shape the country's future, the Western states of Croatia and Slovenia,

where centre-right parties replaced Communists in spring elections, want more independence from the federation and have threatened to secede.

They are opposed by Serbia and pro-Communist Montenegrins, where the ruling Marxists are challenged by 10 other parties, including some wanting union with Serbia.

The polls opened at 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) at 9,500 polling stations in Serbia and 920 ballot offices in Montenegro.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, who make up 90 per cent of the troubled province's 2-million population, boycotted the vote in Serbia to protest direct Serbian rule.

Salvador judge sends 9 to trial for Jesuit slayings

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The judge heading El Salvador's probe into the slaying of six Jesuit priests has ordered an army colonel and eight other soldiers to stand trial for the murders, a court spokesman said.

Solving the murders was a condition set by the United States for unfreezing \$43 million in military aid to El Salvador withheld in September, partly in protest at human rights abuses by the U.S.-backed armed forces.

The U.S. State Department said Friday it was sending an additional \$48.1 million in military aid to the Salvadorean government to help counter an offensive by leftist rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Under the judge's order, Salvadorean Colonel Guillermo Benavides, three junior officers and five soldiers will stand trial for the Nov. 16, 1989 killings on the campus of the Jesuit-run Central American University.

The murders occurred during a huge offensive by leftist rebels in the capital, San Salvador.

Judge Ricardo Zamora decided last night to send to the next stage the trial against the nine suspects for the crimes of murder and terrorism, court spokesman Mario Gonzalez told Reuters Saturday.

Benavides, the other officers and four of the five soldiers were arrested last January after an initial investigation ordered by President Alfredo Cristiani found that government troops had taken part in the killings. A ninth soldier deserted and will be tried in his absence.

The six priests, their housekeeper and her 15-year-old daughter were shot to death with high-powered rifles in a pre-dawn strike.

Judge Zamora began investigating the murders more than a year ago. Under Salvadorean law, he was obliged to decide if there was sufficient evidence against the accused before taking the case to the "plenary" or trial stage.

Court spokesman Gonzalez said the defendants could appeal against the decision to a higher court and that a date for the trial might not be set for at least three months.

Leading Jesuits, including the order's chief representative in Central America, Jose Maria Tojeira, have said there are indications that officers superior to Benavides took part in ordering the killings. A U.S. congressional task force monitoring the case and human rights groups have echoed the charges, accusing the military of a cover-up.

Aquino prepares cabinet reshuffle

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino headed into a deepening crisis Sunday, with the country enraged about sharp oil price rises and major western donors unlikely to help her until further painful economic changes are made.

Aides said Aquino was working on her fourth major cabinet reshuffle since being swept to power in 1986.

Politicians and political commentators said the 57-year-old president faced possibly the most serious crisis of her almost five years in power, with the dramatic rise in oil prices hitting her most loyal supporters.

Aquino, under pressure to quit, said she would not resign. "I will not be intimidated by any problems or crisis facing the nation. If I was not intimidated by (former dictator Ferdinand) Marcos then, why should I be now?" Aquino demanded in her weekly newspaper column published in the Manila People's Journal.

Presidential aides said Aquino would possibly replace her disliked chief-of-staff, Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig, with Transport Secretary Oscar Orbes. Macaraig was in charge of the government's energy programme.

Others who could lose their jobs in the effort to revamp the cabinet and deflect widespread criticism of government handling of the surge in energy prices caused by the Gulf crisis were Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion, and Public Works Secretary Florencia Estuar. Presidential palace sources said.

His Chart Thai Party holds 96 seats in the 357-seat parliament and has ruled for two years through a seven-party coalition.

Chatichai said he hoped the new government would halt the damage to the economy caused by months of political uncertainty and that the new administration would satisfy the military.

Deputy Education Minister Chalermporn Yooabamrungs, who had angered the army by accusing it of corruption and meddling too much in politics, would not be in the new government, Chatichai added.

The generals' dispute with Chatichai reached a crisis point after they claimed the premier reneged on a deal to sack him.

The drawn-out political crisis has taxed the patience of Thais who are still getting used to democracy after a series of military governments and changes of power.

Blocked toilet may bring early end to shuttle flight

HOUSTON (R) — Astronauts aboard the problem-plagued Columbia spacecraft tested rockets and power systems Sunday in case it has to make an early return to Earth due to a blocked toilet.

The 10-day mission, designed to give mankind a glimpse of the mysteries of the universe, faces being brought back Monday — a day earlier than scheduled — because of a mundane problem of faulty plumbing.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials were trying to find a way to avoid cutting short the mission, but preparations to turn back were underway in case.

The seven-man crew stopped using the toilet and instead began using plastic containers and empty drink cans.

Celestial observations were halted while the tests were conducted and re-entry systems were checked. "You are in good shape," flight controller Marsha Ivins radioed to Columbia after the rockets and power systems were checked.

But water continued to accumulate on board the shuttle.

Columbia has four water tanks — three for holding liquid produced as a byproduct of the chemical process that gives the shuttle electrical power.

The fourth, a 20-gallon (75-litre) waste tank, holds sewage to water from a critical dehumidifying system that keeps moisture from the astronauts' breath from condensing on the craft's electronic systems.

The holding tank is emptied from time to time through a small metal pipe. During a routine dumping early Saturday the pipe clogged.

Flight director Al Pennington said scientists would not make a decision on whether to shorten the flight until Sunday afternoon.

The mission, delayed several times by mechanical problems, ran into trouble within hours of lift-off on Dec. 2.

Nine hours into the mission, one of the computers needed to operate three of the Columbia observatory's four deep space telescopes failed.

The telescopes operated on a back-up computer for a short while before that also failed.

The exact cause of the fault was not known, but astronauts reported finding that one of four vents on the air-cooled computers was blocked by lint.

It was not until Friday that scientists were able to operate the telescopes by remote control from the ground with limited efficiency.

As a result the environment today is in an alarming condition. In the past five decades forest

cover in one of the world's most underdeveloped countries has fallen from 47 per cent to about eight per cent, according to John MacKinnon of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Most of the deforested areas have fallen barren. Almost 50 per cent of Vietnam is now classified as unproductive wasteland, he said.

Only about 20 per cent of the land is used for agriculture. Vietnam was for decades a huge battlefield. The Vietnamese fought French, Japanese and later American forces.

Napalm and 72 million litres (19 million gallons) of herbicide were sprayed on the south, directly destroying some two million hectares (five million acres) of forest.

Natural disasters have added to Vietnam's litany of woes. Its long coastline — almost

3,200 kilometres — has left it vulnerable to an average of 10 typhoons a year, ruining crops and exacerbating the effects of deforestation.

Since the war, an impoverished but expanding nation has turned to the forest for fuel, timber and agricultural land, encroaching further into the cover.

According to Hoang Hoe, professor of forest inventory and management at Hanoi University, more than 20 million people live on the forest edge, at least one million of them surviving by slash and burn farming.

He said destruction of the forest was depriving the world of some of its last unspoiled natural habitat. Vietnam was now in danger of losing some 54 species of animals, 60 kinds of birds and about 100 species of trees.

"I use the words careless exploitation, including hunting and

cutting, which are causing the consequences we are now bearing," Hoe said before the conference began.

Industry is slowly developing but already bringing its own horrors of pollution and exploitation, delegates to the conference said.

More than 50 toxic gases have been detected in recent years, said Professor Dang Huu, chairman of the State Committee for Sciences. Inefficient mining methods have wasted vital deposits of coal and ore, he said.

In addition, Vietnam has fallen short on its target of limiting population growth to less than two per cent. Although production per capita has expanded in many areas, divided among 65 million people per capita income growth has dropped.

The conference plan couples an improved framework for managing Vietnam's natural resources

E. German memorabilia auctioned off

BERLIN (R) — Memorabilia from Communist East Germany were sold by auction in Berlin for the first time Saturday, together with mementoes of Hitler's Third Reich and imperial Germany.

The auction room displayed piles of ceremonial flags, racks of uniforms, medals and a rubber tamboon used by the hated Stasi security police, which went to a telephone buyer for 200 marks (\$135).

They are opposed by Serbia and pro-Communist Montenegrins, where the ruling Marxists are challenged by 10 other parties, including some wanting union with Serbia.

The polls opened at 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) at 9,500 polling stations in Serbia and 920 ballot offices in Montenegro.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, who make up 90 per cent of the troubled province's 2-million population, boycotted the vote in Serbia to protest direct Serbian rule.

The party was founded in 1920s and became a considerable force in the labour unions and universities in the 1920s and 1940s under the leadership of Harry Pollitt, its general secretary from 1929 to

1956. The party's fortunes suffered with the Nazi-Soviet pact in 1939, but recovered when the Soviet Union entered the war in 1941. Membership declined sharply after the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956 and diverged further with the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Neal Ascherson, a political commentator for the centrist weekly Independent on Sunday, wrote in the latest issue: "It (the party) always took ideas serious, and for 70 years was able to plant many of them in the intellectual desert of British politics... hated and feared by the establishment, riddled with spies, the Communist Party survived on a diet of romantic hope."

The party split in 1984 when hardliners who gained control of the party newspaper, Morning Star, set up the Communist Party of Britain which has even fewer members.

With programmes to address critical areas. The 10-year plan emphasises efficiency rather than investment.

"Vietnam is a poor country. It can't afford some grand scheme that it can't keep airborne," said one delegate.

A special committee has been set up directly under the Vietnamese cabinet. In a recent draft platform the country's Communist government noted conservation as an important component of national development.

Vietnam sensitive to the environment it has had to live off, hand to mouth, for the past half century, had already launched programmes, among them a new land law passing back to local people ownership and responsibility for the land, Hoe said.

"We must make them understand it is their land, and not loss if they destroy it," he said.